

I

10/621,477

Enclosure (A)

AMENDMENT "A" CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A building panel comprising a rectangular frame having ~~one face~~ two opposing faces covered in board, one of said faces being covered in a water resistant board with the other face also covered in a board material, the frame having top and bottom rails which are joined together by a plurality of spaced apart wood composite ~~[["I"]]~~ I beams extending therebetween, ~~characterised in that two of said I beams also form~~ forming the sides of the frame and having recessed sides facing outwardly of the panel, accommodating in use a rectangular section post for attachment thereto with the space between the boards being filled with thermal insulation.
2. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said one face in use faces externally of the building and is made from OSB (oriented strand board).
3. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the other face of said two faces in use faces internally of the building and may comprises board having a plastics material layer on its internal surface.
4. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the I beams have upper and lower flanges formed from plywood and a web comprising a rigid cellular material sandwiched between two layers of board.

5. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claim 1 characterized ~~in that wherein~~ intermediate support columns extend between the top and bottom rails and are located one column between each pair of adjacent beams, each column comprising a rigid cellular centre having sides formed from a suitable board.

6. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claim 5, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ at least ~~some~~ one of said columns has a hollow conduit extending along the middle of the column for its full length, the conduit aligning with apertures formed in either or both the top and bottom rails.

7. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claim 6 characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the hollow conduits are rectangular and are lined on all sides by board.

8. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the top and bottom rails are ~~[["U"]]~~ U section rails having substantially the same cross section with a flat base with arms extending normally thereof with a recess therebetween, the top rail having the flat base presented outwardly of the panel and the bottom rail having the recess presented outwardly of the panel.

9. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The building panel as claimed in Claims 1 wherein the recessed sides of said two I beams are provided with shouldered dowels longitudinally spaced along said I beams and secured thereto, the dowels in use for fixing a linking post to a panel.

10. (currently amended) An internal wall or partition for a building comprises adjacent wall building panels in accordance with Claim 1 and which are linked together by posts having side portions which are engagable within the recessed sides of the I beams.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (presently amended) A wall as claimed in Claim ~~[[12]]~~ 24 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sides of the posts are be provided with key hole apertures which are engagable with shouldered dowels secured to the I-beams for fixing the post to a panel.

14. (original) A wall as claimed in Claim 13 characterised in that clips are located within each post in alignment with each key hole aperture.

15. (original) A wall as claimed in Claim 14 characterized in that each clip is formed in resilient material with a portion inclined internally of the post and has a second key hole aperture therein so that when a dowel engages in a key-hole, longitudinal displacement of the post will tend to pull the post and respective panel together.

16. (original) A wall as claimed in Claim 14 characterized in that each post is provided with an alignment mark at its upper end to both align and orientate the key-hole clips on the post with respect to the dowels on the panel.
17. (cancelled)
18. (currently amended) A method of constructing an internal wall or partition of a building in which building panels according to Claim 1 are fixed to sole plates attached to a base of a building by engaging the recessed bottom rail over the sole plate and passing fasteners through both the arms of the bottom rail and the sole plate.
19. (currently amended) A method of constructing an internal wall or partition of a building in which building panels according to Claims 1 are linked together by posts having side portions which are engagable within the recessed sides of the I beams
20. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 19 characterized further by the posts being fixed to the panels by means of shouldered dowels secured to the I-beams engaging in aligned key-hole apertures on clips secured on the posts.
21. (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein panels may ~~be~~ are assembled top to bottom with the bottom rail of at least one upper panel engaging a intermediate plywood strip attached to the top rail of at least one lower panel.

22. (currently amended) A method of building an internal wall ~~[[pr]]~~ or partition of a building in which building panels according to Claim 6 are assembled top to bottom with the bottom rail of an upper panel engaging an intermediate wooden strip attached to the top rail of the lower panel strip, wherein said intermediate strip has apertures therein that align with the apertures in the top and bottom rails of said panels, forming conduits that run vertically through the walls.

23. (new) An internal wall or partition for a building comprises adjacent building panels, each panel comprising a rectangular frame having two faces covered in board, one of said faces being covered in a water resistant board, the frame having top and bottom rails which are joined together by a plurality of spaced apart wood composite I beams extending therebetween, two of said I beams forming the sides of the frame and having recessed sides facing outwardly of the panel, with the space between the boards being filled with thermal insulation, adjacent panels being linked together by posts having side portions which are engagable within the recessed sides of the I beams, the posts being formed with longitudinal tongues which are a slide fit within the recessed sides of the I beams.

24. (new) A wall comprising adjacent panels, each panel comprising a rectangular frame having two faces covered in board, one of said faces being covered in a water resistant board, the frame having top and bottom rails which are joined together by a plurality of spaced apart wood composite I beams extending therebetween, two of said I beams forming the sides of the frame and having recessed sides facing outwardly of the panel, with the space between the boards being filled with thermal insulation, wherein the recessed sides of said two I beams

are provided with shouldered dowels longitudinally spaced along said I beams and secured thereto, the dowels in use for fixing a linking post to a panel, said adjacent panels being linked together by posts accommodated within the recessed sides of the I beams, the posts having a box section that comprising plywood sidewalls and central cavity filled with a rigid cellular material.

25. (new) A post for linking together two building panels, each panel comprising a rectangular frame having two faces covered in board, one of said faces being covered in a water resistant board, the frame having top and bottom rails which are joined together by a plurality of spaced apart wood composite I beams extending therebetween, two of said I beams forming the sides of the frame and having recessed sides facing outwardly of the panel, with the space between the boards being filled with thermal insulation, wherein the recessed sides of said two I beams are provided with shouldered dowels longitudinally spaced along said I beams and secured thereto, the dowels in use for fixing a linking post to a panel, wherein the post has a rectangular cross-section with a plurality of keyhole apertures spaced along its length and aligning with said dowels, with an alignment means attached to the upper portion of the post for alignment of said apertures and dowels, the alignment means being removable when the post is driven into its operative position.